

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SPECIAL COUNSEL, INC.,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
LYNDA STEVENS and STEVENS  
LEGAL STAFFING GROUP LLC,  
Defendants.

No. CV 08-5511 PA (VBKx)

PROTECTIVE ORDER CONCERNING  
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Court orders that the discovery and use of proprietary and confidential information in this action shall be governed by the following procedures:

1. In connection with discovery proceedings in this action, the parties may designate any document, thing, material, testimony or other information derived therefrom, as "Confidential" under the terms of this Protective Order (hereinafter "Order"). Confidential information is information which has not been made public and which concerns or relates to the alleged misappropriation of trade secrets and employment-related claims at issue in this litigation.<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> The type of information as to which good cause for entry of a protective order typically can be shown includes trade secrets and other highly confidential commercial information, material required to be kept confidential by state or federal law, or highly sensitive personal information such as medical records.

1       2. By designating a document, thing, material, testimony or other information  
2 derived therefrom as “Confidential” under the terms of this Order, the party making the  
3 designation is certifying to the Court that there is a good faith basis in law and in fact for the  
4 designation within the meaning of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(g).

5       3. Confidential documents shall be so designated by stamping copies of the  
6 document produced to a party with the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” Stamping the legend  
7 “CONFIDENTIAL” on the cover of any multipage documents shall designate all pages of  
8 the document as confidential, unless otherwise indicated by the producing party.

9       4. Testimony taken at a deposition may be designated as confidential by making  
10 a statement to that effect on the record at the deposition. Arrangements shall be made with  
11 the court reporter taking and transcribing such deposition to separately bind such portions of  
12 the transcript containing information designated as confidential, and to label such portions  
13 appropriately.

14       5. Material designated as confidential under this Order, the information contained  
15 therein, and any summaries, copies, abstracts, or other documents derived in whole or in part  
16 from material designated as confidential (hereinafter “Confidential Material”) shall be used  
17 only for the purpose of the prosecution, defense, or settlement of this action, and for no other  
18 purpose.

19       6. Confidential Material produced pursuant to this Order may be disclosed or  
20 made available only to the Court, to counsel for a party (including the paralegal, clerical, and  
21 secretarial staff employed by such counsel), and to the “qualified persons” designated  
22 below:

23           (a) a party, or an officer, director, or employee of a party deemed necessary  
24                   by counsel to aid in the prosecution, defense, or settlement of this  
25                   action;

26           (b) experts or consultants (together with their clerical staff) retained by  
27                   such counsel to assist in the prosecution, defense, or settlement of this  
28                   action;

- 1 (c) court reporter(s) employed in this action;
- 2 (d) a witness at any deposition or other proceeding in this action; and
- 3 (e) any other person as to whom the parties in writing agree.

4 Prior to receiving any Confidential Material, each “qualified person” shall be provided with  
5 a copy of this Order and shall execute a nondisclosure agreement in the form of Attachment  
6 A, a copy of which shall be provided forthwith to counsel for each other party and for the  
7 parties.

8 7. Only qualified persons may attend depositions at which Confidential Material  
9 is used or discussed.

10 8. The parties may further designate certain discovery material or testimony of a  
11 highly confidential and/or proprietary nature as “CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEY’S EYES  
12 ONLY” (hereinafter “Attorney’s Eyes Only Material”), in the manner described in  
13 paragraphs 2 and 3 above. Attorney’s Eyes Only Material, and the information contained  
14 therein, shall be disclosed only to the Court, to counsel for the parties (including the  
15 paralegal, clerical and secretarial staff employed by such counsel), and to the “qualified  
16 persons” listed in subparagraphs 6(b) through (e) above, but shall not be disclosed to a party,  
17 or to an officer, director or employee of a party, unless otherwise agreed or ordered. If  
18 disclosure of Attorney’s Eyes Only Material is made pursuant to this paragraph, all other  
19 provisions in this order with respect to confidentiality shall also apply.

20 9. Nothing herein shall impose any restrictions on the use or disclosure by a party  
21 of material obtained by such party independent of discovery in this action, whether or not  
22 such material is also obtained through discovery in this action, or from disclosing its own  
23 Confidential Material as it deems appropriate.

24 10. If Confidential Material, including any portion of a deposition transcript  
25 designated as Confidential or Attorney’s Eyes Only, is included in any papers to be filed  
26 with the Court, such papers shall be accompanied by an application to (a) file the  
27 confidential portions thereof under seal (if such portions are segregable), or (b) file the  
28 papers in their entirety under seal (if the confidential portions are not segregable). The

1 application shall be directed to the judge to whom the papers are directed. Pending the  
2 ruling on the application, the papers or portions thereof subject to the sealing application  
3 shall be lodged under seal.

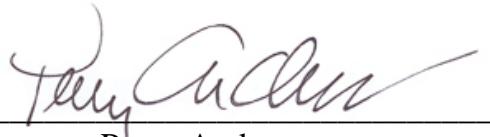
4 11. This Order shall be without prejudice to the right of the parties (i) to bring  
5 before the Court at any time the question of whether any particular document or information  
6 is confidential or whether its use should be restricted or (ii) to present a motion to the Court  
7 under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) for a separate protective order as to any particular document or  
8 information, including restrictions differing from those as specified herein. This Order shall  
9 not be deemed to prejudice the parties in any way in any future application for modification  
10 of this Order.

11 12. This Order is entered solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of  
12 documents and information between the parties to this action without involving the Court  
13 unnecessarily in the process. Nothing in this Order nor the production of any information or  
14 document under the terms of this Order nor any proceedings pursuant to this Order shall be  
15 deemed to have the effect of an admission or waiver by either party or of altering the  
16 confidentiality or nonconfidentiality of any such document or information or altering any  
17 existing obligation of any party or the absence thereof.

18 13. This Order shall survive the final termination of this action, to the extent that  
19 the information contained in Confidential Material is not or does not become known to the  
20 public, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction to resolve any dispute concerning the use of  
21 information disclosed hereunder. Upon termination of this case, counsel for the parties shall  
22 assemble and return to each other all documents, material and deposition transcripts  
23 designated as confidential and all copies of same, or shall certify the destruction thereof.

24 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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26 DATED: January 8, 2009  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Percy Anderson  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

1  
2 Attachment A  
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**Nondisclosure Agreement**

5 I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I am fully familiar with the terms  
6 of the Protective Order Concerning Confidential Information entered in Special Counsel,  
7 Inc. v. Lynda Stevens, et al., United States District Court for the Central District of  
8 California, Civil Action No. CV 08-5511 PA (VBKx), and hereby agree to comply with and  
9 be bound by the terms and conditions of said Order unless and until modified by further  
10 Order of the Court. I hereby consent to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of  
11 enforcing this nondisclosure agreement.

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13 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
14 [Name of Signator Typed]  
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